



New Promotions Announced

Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz has proudly announced a number of promotions resulting from the recent retirements of District Administrator Remi Acosta and Warden Moises Gonzalez. Elevated to the position of North District Administrator is Warden Wayne Choinski. Stepping into Warden Choinski's role at the Northern Correctional Institution will be Major Jeffrey McGill. A third promotion from the staff of Northern will see Major Esther Torres take over as Warden of the Willard-Cybulski Correctional Institution. Warden Christine Whidden has accepted the challenging position at the Manson Youth

Institution with Warden Bruce Cuscovitch moving down the road to assume the leadership role at Robinson CI. "I am extremely proud that we have this caliber of professionals ready to move up to the highest level of leadership that they have all earned through their commitment and dedication to our mission," said Commissioner



Pictured (L-R) Warden Esther Torres (Willard-Cybulski CI), Warden Jeffrey McGill (Northern CI) and North District Administrator Wayne Choinski.

Lantz. The promotions take effect as of February 1, 2006. Additional promotions are expected shortly as Warden Giovanni Gomez has announced his retirement as of March 1st and a number of Majors' positions still need to be back filled.

* ~ ~ ~ ~ *

Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall protect the public, protect staff, and ensure a secure, safe, and humane environment for offenders in a climate that promotes professionalism, respect, integrity, dignity, and excellence.

* ~ ~ ~ ~ *

About and for
correctional
professionals

January 15-
28, 2006

Manson Scholarship Winners

“I predict great things from each of you and I know, that long after some of us are long gone from the agency, we will be reading about the great things you have accomplished in your lifetimes.” These were the sentiments shared by Commissioner Theresa Lantz as she greeted the 2006 John R. Manson Scholarship recipients and their families at the Scholarship’s Annual Awards Breakfast.



2006 John R. Manson Scholarship Committee Members, Award Recipients, Carolyn Manson and Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz.

organizations within the community and by their involvement to several civic organizations. Director Dan Callahan, who oversees the Scholarship Committee stated, “It is an honor and a privilege to award these three deserving students with the 2006 John R. Manson Scholarship.”

Carolyn Manson, widow of John R. Manson stated to Commissioner Lantz, “I am appreciative for your continued support and endorsement of the Annual Scholarship Breakfast and for your inclusion of me in this event. You make it possible for the recipients to receive financial assistance and give them the opportunity to be honored and recognized for their accomplishments in public. That is priceless.” Vinita Dora, a Physiology & Neurobiology major enrolled in the Pre-Med Program at the University of Connecticut is the daughter of Vijay Dora, Accountant in the Fiscal Services Unit (Central Office) of the agency. In the essay portion of her application for the John R. Manson Scholarship, Vinita noted that she always loved science. She has found her “niche” and feels that the field of science is full of fascinating surprises,



Dora Family with Commissioner Lantz

This year, two of the three recipients were also winners of the same award last year. The 2006 John R. Manson Scholarship Award winners are Vinita Dora, Maurice Nelson and Victoria Soberal. These recipients stood out among the applicants by attaining a level of high scholastic achievement, donating their time to various volunteer

PRIDE.
AT
Work

for
January 15- 28, 2006

Distributed
bi-weekly to 7,000 staff

State of Connecticut
Department of Correction
24 Wolcott Hill Road,
Wethersfield, CT 06109

M. Jodi Rell, Governor

Theresa C. Lantz,
Commissioner

Web address:
www.ct.gov/doc

Public Information Office
telephone:
860.692.7780
fax:
860.692.7783

Mommy, Why is Santa Wearing a DOC Uniform?

Pride at Work, January 15, 2006 -
January 28, 2006 p.3

Christmas came early for some children in need and Santa was wearing a Department of Correction uniform. Correctional Industries Supervisors Timothy Boynton and Jean Frezza worked their magic again this year and created over one hundred rag dolls and teddy bears. The items were donated last month to the South Park Inn, an Emergency Shelter and Transitional Living Program located in Hartford. Formed in 1982, the shelter's mission is to assist homeless people to improve their life situation by providing temporary and long-term housing, supportive services and to advocate for solutions to homelessness.



Pictured (L-R) Industries Supervisor Jean Frezza (Osborn CI), Dave DuVerger, Service Coordinator (South Park Inn), Jose G and son Jose Jr. (South Park Inn residents) Brian Baker, Assistant Director (South Park Inn) and Industries Supervisor Timothy Boynton (Osborn CI)

Serenity, age 2, and Jose, age 6, were two of the children that were at the South Park Inn when the dolls were being delivered. The look of joy and excitement spread throughout the room as they embraced their new toys for the first time. This year's donation marked the third year that the toys were given to those in the community. In

past years the dolls were donated to the State Police, Department of Children and Families, and other shelters in the community.

Industries Supervisor Jean Frezza smiled and asked if we would take a photo so she could share it



Industries Supervisor Jean Frezza beams as Serenity happily squeezes her new doll.

with the inmates at Osborn. "They will get such a kick out of knowing that something they created helped to brighten the day of a needy child." Tim

Boynton echoed those sentiments, "The inmates who work in the textile shops feel as if they are giving something back to the community, even from prison."

The inmates who work in the textile shop at Osborn CI create rag dolls and teddy bears as part of the sewing apprenticeship program at the facility. The inmates who work in the textile shop use the dolls as a training tool. Industry Supervisors ensure that the inmates master the basic skills of measuring, stitching, cutting, and embroidery before they assign them permanently to one of the industry shops.

Population on January 15, 2006

2 2 5 8 1

On January 15, 2005 the population was 22,652.



EMPLOYEE
ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM

(888) EAP-2880

Federal Grant Will Assist in Re-Entry

Pride at Work, January 15, 2006 -
January 28, 2006 p.4

Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz recently took part in the presentation of a \$666,000 federal grant that will be used to develop and implement the Hartford Prison Re-entry program. The grant was secured through a partnership of the Connecticut Department of Correction and Community Partners in Action, and will assist in funding a multi-year project that will focus primarily on creating employment and opportunities for ex-offenders. "These offenders are coming home, back to their communities, and we must be ready to provide the services that are crucial to their successful reintegration," said Commissioner Lantz. Making the formal presentation of the grant was United States Department of Labor, Deputy Secretary Steven Law. He praised the collaborative initiative of state agencies, including the DOC and the Department of Labor along with the city of Hartford and non-profit agencies that applied for and will utilize the funding. He pointed out that of some 550 applications, Hartford's was one of only about 30 that were approved nationwide. The Department of



Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz speaking at the CPA press conference launching the Hartford Prison Re-Entry program.

Correction is now seeking a companion grant, in partnership with Community Partners in Action and the Court Support Services Division, that will provide additional pre-release assessments, programs and services.

Did You Know?...

Did you know is an informational column written by the Facilities Management and Engineering Unit, aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at 860.692.7554. This article was written by PFE 1 Jay Harder and he can be reached at 203.806.2667 if you have any questions.



A famous astronomer, Carl Sagan, once said, "We are star stuff." I remember hearing this statement some years ago but never really understood or thought about just what it meant. Whether you feel the creation of man and the universe was an act of God or a natural event I'm not going to dispute. What I'm going to discuss here is how the particles that we are made of were created. I would like to share with you what Carl Sagan meant and just how connected we are to the stars in the sky.

Scientists believe that following the "Big Bang," which happened about 14 billion years ago, the only things that existed in the expanding universe were the simplest elements, mostly hydrogen, some helium and dust. Hydrogen, as I'm sure you all remember from high school science classes, has only one proton and one electron in its atom while helium has two protons and two electrons. This is all that existed. Nothing more. Look around you, literally everything you see is made up of more complex atoms – carbon, water, stone, oxygen, iron and, of course, us. None of the atoms that make up us, and everything around us, existed when the universe began. So where did these atoms that make up the earth and everything on it come from?

The answer is, in the life and death of super massive stars. In the life cycle of a star, its birth starts with huge hydrogen gas clouds, called nebulae, and dust swirling around itself. Through gravitational pull, it starts to collapse in on itself to form a proto-star. This process can go on for millions of years.

Continued on Page 6, See *Did you know*

DOC staff wins “Man of the Year” Award

Pride at Work, January 15, 2006 -
January 28, 2006 p.5

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society recently honored Dave Dubois, the Infection Disease Counselor/Educator at Bergin Correctional Institution with the “Man of the Year Award.” This award recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Dave has volunteered with the MS Society for over 5 years throughout Connecticut. Dave is a Psychiatric Therapist and in his volunteer role he is able to combine his experience with his dedication. He provides lectures on topics such as “Coping with Depression & MS,” “Leadership,” and “Managing Crisis Effectively” to individuals diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. He has also extended his expertise to various MS community support groups and programs. In speaking with Dave it is apparent he takes pride in his volunteer commitment. He recently reflected, “The National Multiple Sclerosis Society is an exceptional organization with many very unique and impressive programs for those afflicted with the disease, their families and the community. The society, its members and volunteers, are an endearing collection of people that foster an environment of genuine compassion, respect, encouragement and hope for all. Volunteering with them has been and will continue to be an awesome and inspiring journey. I welcome others to be a part of this great experience.” Dave also recently returned from volunteering with the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Team for Hurricanes Rita, Katrina and Wilma. He supervised and managed a Mental Health Program for Disaster Relief victims at the American Red Cross National Headquarters call center in Washington, DC. Congratulations on your award Dave.



Dave Dubois of Bergin CI proudly displays his Award Certificate.

C.E.R.T. Recruitment

Director Richard Miele of the Tactical Operations Unit has announced the Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT) is recruiting new members to fill current vacancies. Candidates should be familiar with Administrative Directive 7.4, Emergency Response Units, and should be in compliance with Section 8. Emergency Response Unit Member Selection, Appointment and Retention Criteria. A CERT Member Application can be obtained in the Warden's Office of your facility. Interested candidates must submit a copy of the previous year's attendance, last three years of evaluations (if applicable), three letters of recommendation and a one or two paragraph letter explaining the reason for applying for this position. All perspective candidates must pass the DAS physical assessment test and complete a two-week Tactical Operation training session before being assigned to C.E.R.T. Applications must be forwarded to the employee's Warden for signature no later than March 15, 2006. Wardens will then forward the application to the CERT District Executive Officers accordingly (Lieutenant Greg Harding, North District or Lieutenant Robert Martin, South District). If there are any questions, you may contact the Tactical Operations Unit, Statewide CERT Commander, Captain Stephen Faucher at 860.848.5702. We are searching for the Department's finest to join this critical, elite team.

Code Red

Correctional Officer Seiji Funai of Corrigan-Radgowski CC had all of his personal possessions destroyed in a house fire. Staff at CRCC are coordinating efforts to help Officer Funai. Please contact Captain Idette Thompson at CRCC should you wish to offer assistance.

Oops

The January 1-14, 2006 edition of PRIDE inadvertently labeled a caption on page 6. Records Specialist Bernine Holmberg was pictured with toys donated by the staff at Enfield CI, not CRCI. We apologize for the error.

Barber wins CEA Lifetime Achievement Award

Pride at Work, January 15, 2006 -
January 28, 2006 p.6

William B. Barber, Superintendent of Schools for the Connecticut Department of Correction's Unified School District #1 was honored as the recipient of the Correctional Education Association Lifetime Achievement Award at the CEA Annual International Conference in Des Moines, Iowa. Unified School District Directors, Dave Gallicchio, Angela Jalbert, Diana Pacetta-Ullmann and Christine Murphy nominated Mr. Barber.

The Award is presented annually to someone who has made a major contribution to the field of correctional education during their professional work life. The award honors an individual's longevity within the profession because they provided leadership, vision, and momentum toward excellence.

William Barber has served as Superintendent of Schools for the Unified School District #1, with the Connecticut Department of Correction since 1997. He progressed through the educational ranks holding the titles of Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Director of Pupil Services, School Principal, School Psychologist and School Counselor.

Under Mr. Barber's leadership, the Unified School District #1 has earned the reputation of being a highly professional organization dedicated to meeting the educational needs of a diverse population with special needs.



Superintendent Barber was presented with the Achievement Award by the CEA President, Dr. Carolyn Eggleston.

Did You Know? Cont'd

A point is reached where the star can no longer sustain the nuclear fusion, and it explodes in a supernovae explosion blowing out into space all these atoms that were once hydrogen but are now much more complex atoms. The shock wave created by the supernovae explosion will travel for hundreds and thousands of light years through space, and along the way it will encounter other hydrogen gas clouds causing them to compress and start the cycle all over again.

Super giant stars typically live for only millions of years, but scientists have calculated the age of the universe to be just shy of 14 billion years old, so you can see this process has repeated itself over and over again for many billions of years. When earth and our solar system were formed about 4 billion years ago, the hydrogen gas collapsed to the center of the solar system to form our sun. The more complex atoms created from all the earlier supernovas formed the inner planets of our solar system with hydrogen and methane forming the outer gas planets.

One super giant star not too far away can be seen easily. If you are familiar with the winter constellation "Orion," the bright red star in the upper left shoulder is "Betelgeuse" also known as Beetlejuice (from the movie). This star is about 425 light years away, is about 600 times the mass of our sun and could explode as a supernova at anytime. When this happens, the only objects in the sky that will be brighter will be our own sun and moon.

This is all very complicated and might be confusing but the gist of what I am trying to get across here is that everything that makes up you, me and almost everything around us is here because the atoms that make us up were created in the life cycle of a super giant star.

The next time you are out late at night and gaze up into the starry heavens, think about what Carl Sagan meant when he said, "We are star stuff."

Scholarship Winners Cont'd

Pride at Work, January 15, 2006 -
January 28, 2006 p.7

which she has witnessed while taking several biology, chemistry, and physics courses required of students enrolled in the Pre-Med program at UCONN. She was encouraged to get involved in research this past semester and she has been working with highly qualified professors to enhance her lab skills. In the course of her volunteer work at the University of Connecticut Health Center, New Britain General Hospital and Aetna Ambulance Services as a training emergency medical technician, she has discovered that she really enjoys working with and helping people. During her freshman year at UCONN, Vinita attained a grade point average of 3.920. She is a member of the UCONN Marching Band, Pep Band, Honors Council, Red Cross Intramural Sports and Indian Students Association (UCONN Chapter).

Maurice Nelson an Education major at the University of Connecticut, is the son of Roger Nelson, Parole Officer (New Haven District Parole Office). Maurice feels that the University of Connecticut has provided a place for him to receive a well-rounded education with innovative programs in teaching. He will learn the basics of teaching and will also have the opportunity to experience his clinical trials in both urban and rural districts. In addition, he will learn how to develop a curriculum and become acquainted with the new role technology plays in the classroom. His father's example showed Maurice both the importance and practicality of an education. Maurice eagerly awaits the continuation of his learning process as a means for serving students and himself. He knows that learning persists everyday-regardless of whether the environment is a school, a prison or a rehabilitation center. During his sophomore year at UCONN, Maurice attained a grade point average of 3.953.

His campus and community outreach activities include being the Production and Office Manager at the University of Connecticut Television Station, a Mansfield Middle School tutor, and a volunteer at The Cornerstone Youth Center. He held a part-time summer position at Target and was a Training Assistant at the Pfizer Pharmaceutical Corporation.



Commissioner Lantz with the Nelson Family



Commissioner Lantz with the Soberal Family

UCONN Sophomore Victoria Soberal majors in Film Studies and is the daughter of Correctional Officer Edgardo Soberal (Bridgeport CC). She believes art is not only what one sees, but also what one does. Victoria feels that anyone can point the camera in a given direction and press the record button-but noted that it takes a true artist to see and capture the moment and turn it into a vision of art. Victoria hopes to produce documentaries that will help improve current economical situations - whether it is poverty in a small city in Africa or a lack of school supplies in an inner city classroom. Victoria has attained a grade point average of 3.297 thus far at UCONN. Her campus and community outreach activities include being a library worker, a member of PRLASO (Puerto Rican Latin American Student Organization), a volunteer at elections and for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Building

Blocks Urban Project, a volunteer for the Yale Commons Community Garden Project of Bridgeport, a volunteer as producer and serving as technical director for "Latinos En Accion" (Waterbury's Public Access Sky Cable XIII). Victoria also works for UCONN's Waterbury Library as a librarian assistant and at The Picture People doing photography, printing and sales.